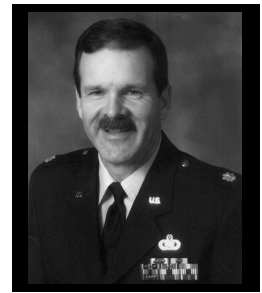


NOTES FROM THE:

Financial Information Systems Program Office

by Lt Col John H. Gill



The Financial Information Systems Program Office (FN SPO) encompasses central design activity efforts at both SSG and the Materiel Systems Group (MSG) component located at Wright-Patterson AFB OH. This article includes information on efforts being worked at both locations that have AFMC and Air Force-wide applicability. In addition, the July 1999 issue will mark the debut of our Systems Program Director, Mr Richard DeNezza, as the author of this column. In this issue I am providing an update on the Financial Information Systems Assessment (FISA) and two of our MSG projects, the Automated Business Services System (ABSS) and the Automated Budget Analysis Centralized User System (ABACUS). We are about to embark on Phase II of FISA which is described in detail below.

Financial Information Systems Assessment. SAF/FM chartered FN SPO to conduct a FISA. The FISA is comprised of two phases. The Phase I (Oct 98 - Mar 99) objective was to develop a baseline of information about financial systems. This baseline provided all the functional, technical, and integration aspects of the critical financial systems. That phase concentrated on interactions and dependencies among the systems and highlighted any significant deficiencies. The Phase II objective (Apr - Jun 99) is to develop a series of 18-month plans to remedy the most significant deficiencies. The information will be presented on a compact disk in a relational database structure that allows information retrieval via a user-friendly navigational path.

The WEB site based user's survey, which is being completed by the MAJCOMs and a selected number of their base-level users, is providing helpful suggestions and recommendations to the contractor during the evaluation phase of the effort. The information that will be produced includes system functions, input/output sources and recipients, customers, interfaces and interfacing methodology, technical aspects (language, database structure, lines of code), hardware requirements, communication requirements, operating locations, data flow, system dependencies, funds managed, certifications, problem areas, and planned improvements. The significant findings and recommendations of the FISA will be presented to the SAF/FM Executive Oversight Committee. We also anticipate providing much of the information via the SSG/FN WEB site. This will allow users the capability to retrieve functional and technical information applicable to both the major financial systems and other less significant interfacing systems.

Automated Business Services System (ABSS). The ABSS is an Air Force standard system that enables any government

individual, with a requirement to procure an end item or service, to enter that requirement on-line into an electronic system. The requirement for the end item or service moves electronically through the system for coordination, allows the Financial Service Office (FSO) to electronically interface to standard accounting systems (CPAS, GAFS/BQ, and IAPS) for certification of funds availability, and on to contracting to electronically interface to the Base Contracting Automated System. ABSS is part of the AF paperless initiative and has an aggressive development/deployment schedule.

As of 31 Jan 99, ABSS was deployed to 35 Air Force bases in the US and abroad. Bases in USAFE and PACAF are coming online. The next version of the ABSS software (v1.0.1) is currently undergoing Government Acceptance Testing and is due to be released soon. ABSS database servers are continuing to be ordered, setup, and shipped to the sites to assure a homogenous configuration to aid in the support of remote Oracle database administration, which is a concept that is being supported by the AF for the entire ABSS program worldwide.

Automated Budget Analysis Centralized User System (ABACUS). FN assumed Program Management Office (PMO) responsibility for the ABACUS in Jun 98. ABACUS serves as the Air Force Working Capital Fund (AFWCF) budget reporting tool. ABACUS is used to prepare, document, and submit budget estimates to the Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller (USD/C) in designated pro forma report formats. ABACUS also provides worksheets that can be used to develop and analyze budget estimates. The system is primarily used June through September to prepare the BES and December through February to support the documentation of the approved AFWCF President's Budget. Users of ABACUS are at all levels of the AFWCF budgetary process and are located throughout the US. ABACUS was certified year 2000 (Y2K) compliant in Jan 99.

Currently, ABACUS is a custom developed client/server application that utilizes PowerBuilder (as a graphical user interface, calculation mechanism, and report generator and Sybase) as the database management system. The implementation of new functional requirements will enable ABACUS to improve the AFWCF budgeting and pricing processes by: Improving the accuracy of the budget; Improving the timeliness of budget submissions; Providing more flexibility in analyzing the impact of any proposed changes; and automating manual processes. Efforts are underway to deliver the new budget system by May 01.